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The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope—notwithstanding the passing criticism of his friend Mr. Crawford—that the extracts which had been read from the communications of Dr. Livingstone would tell cogently in favour of the views of that zealous and able explorer, and induce the public to urge Her Majesty's Government to continue to support the Zambesi expedition which they had set on foot. It had been stated on the high authority of Sir George Grey, the Governor of the Cape, that if anything should happen to cause the failure of this expedition, the fame of which had gone far and wide, the effect upon British interests throughout South Africa would be most detrimental. The consideration of a small sum of money must not be suffered to check the prosecution of this important enterprise. He trusted that the sentiments entertained by the present meeting would have a just influence upon Her Majesty's Government, and would lead them to accelerate those measures which have the full sanction of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The CHAIRMAN finally adverted to the recent death of that eminently philosophical and great statesman the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone; but no justice could be done to such a name in a few brief sentences, and in due season the President of this Society would no doubt do all honour to the memory of that illustrious man.

At the next meeting, when the subject of the Map of Kashmir would be considered, he would read a letter from Lord Canning relating to the Engineers of India, which did so much credit to the head and heart of the Governor General that he was sure the meeting would hear the communication with much satisfaction.

*Third Meeting, Monday, December 12th, 1859.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Captain H. H. Godwin Austen ; the Hon. and Rev. F. S. Grimston ; F. W. Davis, M.D., R.N. ; H. Harwood Harwood ; W. H. Purdon ; and Francis Tagart, Esqrs., were presented upon their Election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Captain G. Augustus Bedford, R.N. ; Rear-Admiral Sir H. Byam Martin, K.C.B. ; Henry Ancell ; Edward Butler ; Edmund Calvert ; William C. Hood, M.D. ; Henry Raikes, M.A. ; Edward Smith ; W. Castle Smith ; Richard Todd ; and James Watson, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

EXHIBITIONS.—The MS. Trigonometrical Survey of Kashmir, by Captain T. G. G. Montgomerie, F.R.G.S., under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel A. Scott Waugh, F.R.G.S., Surveyor-General of India ; sketches illustrative of Himalayan scenery, by Captain H. H. G. Austen and Mr. Purdon ; numerous sketches of scenery in British Columbia, including San Juan Island, &c., by Mr. Bedwell, R.N. ; a map of the Fraser River, by Captain G. H. Richards, R.N., F.R.G.S., of H. M. S. *Plumper* ; a plan of the Tien-tsin-ho, showing the Chinese defences, by Major Fisher, R.E. ; and a model of the Welcome gold nugget from Ballarat, by Professor Tennant, F.R.G.S., were exhibited.

Prior to commencing the Paper on Kashmir, the Chairman read the following letter from Lord Canning, the Governor-General of India :—

DEAR SIR RODERICK,

Calcutta, Aug. 29th, 1859.

Last month I sent to the Secretary of State for India the first sheet of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of Kashmir, the work of Captain Montgomerie, of the Bengal Engineers, done under the superintendence of Colonel Waugh, the Surveyor-General of India.

To my unlearned eye it is as fine an example of topographical drawing as I have ever seen, though the subject is one upon which I do not pretend to be an expert judge.

But I can speak to the difficulties under which Captain Montgomerie's task has been accomplished: not the physical difficulties of the ground only, but the awful discouragement and anxiety of finding himself almost alone in those wild mountains, the people of which had, to say the least, no sympathy with the English rule in India, and surrounded by Hindostanee sepoys, whose comrades and relatives were amongst the most active movers in the chaos of murder and rebellion which was boiling in the plains below. You, perhaps, have heard that, at Roorkee, the head-quarters of the Sappers, and at the foot of the Himalayas, the men of that corps, early in the mutiny, shot their commanding-officer at the head of his column, and joined the ranks of the rebels.

Captain Montgomerie, however, by his own courage and tact, not only kept his men (soldiers of that same regiment) under discipline and got good work out of them, but brought them back loyal and attached to the service. They have now good cause to thank him.

I know that these incidents add nothing to Captain Montgomerie's claims to notice on scientific grounds; but if, as I hope may be the case, the Royal Geographical Society should consider that his labours deserve to be noticed for their result, the circumstances under which they were carried out may perhaps be taken into account. If the Society think this young officer worthy of any honour, I shall greatly rejoice, both for his own sake and for that of the distinguished corps to which he belongs. I believe that there does not exist under any Government in the world a body of officers surpassing that of the Engineers of the Indian Army in the combination of high intellectual ability and acquirements with the most daring and persevering courage, if indeed there be any equal to it.

I wish I had been able to push forward the Geological Survey more rapidly, in accordance with your exhortations of four years ago. But the last two years and a half have given me other things to think of, and, which is worse, other things whereupon to spend our money; even you yourself, had you been here, would have had to turn your hammer once more into a sword. I hope, however, to get some practical benefit out of the Kumaon iron district very shortly, in the shape of castings (wrought iron will be a longer job), and the recent discovery of the extent, much greater than was known, of useful coal-fields, not far from the line of the East India Railway in Lower Bengal, is a very welcome incident. On the other hand, I am sorry to say that I have just received a most discouraging report from Mr. Oldham of the hopelessness of finding coal north-westward of Allahabad.

Believe me, dear Sir Roderick,

Yours very faithfully,

*Sir Roderick I. Murchison, &c. &c.,  
Belgrave Square.*

CANNING.